

# Avila Examiner

Volume 7, No. 1

Avila College, Kansas City, Mo.

August 30, 1982

## Friday Films offer fun for all

by Denise Kaufman

Friday Films are back and hotter than ever. Award winning favorites, box-office block busters and top rated stars are on the bill for the coming months. "Superman II," "The Blues Brothers," and "China Syndrome" are just a few of the nationally acclaimed attractions which will be screened in the Marian Centre Lounge.

"Chariots of Fire", a unique masterpiece which tells a true account of the 1924 Paris Olympics will be shown on September 3rd at 7:00 and 9:15 p.m. This intense saga of two British runners each with independent identities, goals, and dreams should not be missed.

Goldie Hawn, Chevy Chase, and Charles Grodin Team up in a madcap romantic comedy about a lady lawyer, her district attorney spouse and an ex-husband who is on the wrong side of the law. The trio meshes well together in "Seems like Old Times", a Neil Simon hit which will be shown on September 10th at 7:00 and 9:00 p.m.

Brooke Shield slides out of her Calvin Kleins and into a steamy tropical paradise in "The Blue Lagoon." Her co-star, Christopher Atkins is on hand to help the heroine discover the meaning of true love. Beautiful blue waters and white sands set the scene for this tale of love and adventure. This much talked about motion picture will be shown on September 17 at 7:00 and 9:00 p.m.

Remember, these films are FREE to all Avila students and their guests, so come early, popcorn in hand and be prepared for a night of fun!



Students found out recently that books like everything else have risen in price. The average freshman now pays around \$100 for his books in his first semester.

## Intern program meeting

Mary F. Scalisi

A Business Internship Program meeting will be held Sept. 12 at 7:00 p.m. in Whitfield Centre. Students in the program gain experience in the business world and also earn college credit.

According to Bob Samson, Business Internship Coordinator, students who participated in the program during the summer will be present at the meeting to tell about their experiences and to answer questions.

Participants in the program must meet certain requirements. For example, they should be undergraduate Business majors with a sophomore standing or above. This and other criteria

will be discussed at the meeting.

The employers who participate in the internship are United Telecom Computer Group; Jet T.V. Rental, Inc.; Coffman Associates (airport consultants); Barker, Rubin, and Sonnich law firm; and the Krane Marketing Company.

Angela Gill, an intern at the Krane Marketing Company, is enthusiastic about the program and the effect it has had on her life. "I recommend an internship to not any, but all college students. It makes a degree so much more meaningful and marketable."

## Aid program changes brought on by cuts

by Mark Johnson

Rising tuition rates and declining federal financial aid have cut enrollment at colleges across the country. Avila is no exception.

Due to these conditions and other changes in aid programs available to students, the college has set priorities in who is to receive aid and in what form.

A major change will come in the aid available to part-time students. No longer will they be eligible for the National Direct Student Loans or the College Work Study Program. If eligible, they still can receive Pell Grants and Guaranteed Student Loans.

All the aid programs will remain open to full-time students who qualify. Included in this will be institutional aid from Avila.

Financial Aid Coordinator Janet Clines says, "The decision was made to direct

the majority of the aid to full-time students since their college costs are the greatest."

Aid is awarded first on a grant basis and then on a self-help basis with the loan and work-study programs.

Under the Pell program this year, the maximum amount awarded per student was raised several dollars, but many awards on the lower end of the scale were eliminated.

Last year in the GSL program, requirements were tightened with the main one being the requirement to show need if the annual family income was above \$30,000. The current interest rate is at 9% while the interest rate on the NDSL is at 5%.

Funding for the work study program will be comparable to last year's amount.

## Play It Again, Sam heads theatre lineup

by Jennifer Hawthorne

The Theatre Division of the Performing Arts Department at Avila feels it has an "outstanding playbill for the 1982-1983 season." *Play It Again, Sam* by Woody Allen is full of zany antics, a fantastic bevy of beauties, and a homely hero Bogey. As the opening performance for Avila's ninth season it will be showing October 1, 2, 8 and 9 at 8:00 p.m. in Goppert Theatre.

Also, in Goppert Theatre at 8:00 p.m., but on November 12, 13, 19 and 20, will be *The Mousetrap*. Agatha Christie's most successful play is a "who done it" with

such characters as a newlywed couple, a spinster, an architect, a retired army major, a strange little man, and a feminine jurist.

Lastly, *The Medium*, a short chamber opera, is a murder mystery that results from a fake medium, Madame Flora, playing with the occult and finding that it's no longer play. It will be showing in the Actor's Laboratory Theatre on November 5 and 6 at 8:00 p.m.

Other plays for the year include *The Children's Hour* and *The Haddocks in the Attic* in February and *Company* and *The Cruise* in April.

## Avila awaits final Title 3 grant approval

by Mark Johnson

Avila is currently awaiting final approval from the United States Department of Education for its second Title 3 program grant in two years.

The first year of the grant will run concurrently with the final year of last year's grant. Last year's grant came from the Strengthening Developing Institutional Program while this year's grant will come from the Institutional Advancement Program.

According to program

coordinator Pat Martin, final approval for the IAP grant is expected in a matter of weeks to make the program operational. The funding level for the first year will be a minimum of \$168,841. The estimated level of funding for the second year is \$190,000. Several portions of the grant are on appeal.

A large amount of the new grant will be targeted towards the Communications department. A portion will be used to create a full time Mass Media coordi-

nator position for the department. Nearly \$50,000 will be used to purchase new television production equipment.

Additional funds will go towards the purchase of more computer software to expand Avila's recently installed computer system's capabilities.

Other areas of the IAP grant will be used to embellish programs started with the SDIP grant. Among the programs to be continued are the business

intern program, curriculum development, physics, college skills, and health services coordination. A full time computer science instructor has also been added. Funding for the SDIP program this year will be at a level of nearly \$300,000.

The one area that will not be continued beyond this year will be the faculty development program that was started last year. Other than that, all the programs will remain intact.

One IAP grant area on

appeal is the length it will run. It is currently set to run for 24 months while the appeal is for 36 months.

Assistance in applying for both grants came from the offices of Missouri Representative Dick Bolling and Missouri Senators John Danforth and Tom Eagleton.

The main purpose of the Title 3 grants are to aid developing institutions in reaching the mainstream of higher education. Avila is one of these institutions.



## Editorial Notebook

### *In search of freedom*

The candle's flame has been extinguished. Window shades are drawn. We have found a new crisis to watch and soon it will pass as it always does. They always seem to pass yet they never leave us.

Poland is still in a state of seige. Nothing has changed but the airtime it receives on the evening news or space it commands on the front page. Its people are denied freedoms that we take for granted day in and day out. Their fight has just begun. For them freedom is a concept whose flame can never be extinguished.

They are just beginning to discover their journey has nearly a thousand steps left to take. No longer will their battle be heralded throughout the world for it has grown old as all news does. News is not what they're seeking though. Freedom's spirit has carried them this far and it must continue to do so.

The world recently had a brief glimpse of this spirit to serve as a reminder. Scenes from Gudansk were very familiar to Americans who lived through the turbulent sixties. A crowd demonstrating for freedom and the labor union Solidarity was dispersed by stick wielding police and water cannons aimed in their direction.

Even more stirring is a square in Warsaw. It's called the Victory by the police and the populace. What they do to it is the difference. Under threat of lengthy imprisonment the people plant flowers in the shape of a cross. That night the flowers will be uprooted by a police detail. A day will pass with a barren cross. The cross is barren in sight only. That night at the risk of their lives Polish citizens will slip by police blockade to replant the garden. In the morning the passerbys will smile and the police will grimace. They know what their job is for that night.

When darkness falls, they will go out with spade in hand one more time to uproot the cross in Victory Square. They succeed in uprooting the garden. The freedom remains.

### *Mind over matter*

Americans are taking to the streets in an unprecedented fashion. It is not a protest against a government or war but a crusade to get in shape. A fitness industry has grown up in their wake. Legs are toned and thighs are slimmed. Hearts are given new life.

In this fitness craze a vital organ has been forgotten. Equipment is not needed to exercise its only desire. There are no running shorts, track shoes with waffle soles and nicest of all — no sweat. The organ is the brain. The first thing one will ask is how do you exercise a brain?

Have no fear. There are no push ups, wind sprints or weightlifting required. What is required is a desire to learn about yourselves and those around you.

An obvious and overlooked exercise is reading. Books can open worlds we never otherwise would explore. Despite this many are unwilling to take the first step of the journey. Reading puts the brain through processes necessary to expand its capability according to many experts.

Other ways to exercise it include memorization, analyzing current events and solving arithmetic problems in your head, rarity in this year of the calculators.

The brain is a frontier that science has just begun to explore. It's gray mass remains a puzzle for scientists seeking to fit the pieces together. Nearly all agree it must be used. When they say use they don't mean having a staredown with a videomachine or using an afternoon to develop a relationship with a television set. Those things are fine for rest periods which the brain needs like all other organs.

When in use it needs to be challenged, it needs to be probed, and it needs to discover.

## Endowment fund established for financial aid, salaries

by Sherri Scalisi

"The establishment of an endowment fund at Avila is good news," says Avila's President Sister Olive Louise. "It is the most important project of the college to insure its continued development of quality programs."

Formally agreed to in June, the fund will help finance student tuition aid and faculty salaries.

The endowment fund is an accumulated fund of money from any sources which is

put into a trust. Businesses, individuals, and alumni have been invited to be contributors to the fund. The interest on the money will be used for restricted purposes by the college: financial aid and faculty salaries.

There is also the living endowment. At one time the Sisters of St. Joseph gave their teaching and administrative services to Avila College. Today, because of fewer Sisters of St. Joseph

## Author Stephen King inspires student's winning screenplay

by Jennifer Hawthorne

Often one realizes he's been wasting his time and talents on others' ideas when he could be producing his own. Such is the case of Avila student Bob Herod who recently won the Sixth Annual FOCUS Awards with his screenplay *Corrin*.

The Annual Films of College and University Students Awards, sponsored by the Nissan-Datsun Motor Corporation, involved more than six hundred nationwide entries in all categories. In the screenplay writing section Herod won the \$2,000 award over 117 other entries. He was flown to Los Angeles, expenses paid for the Awards Ceremony June 28th.

Herod was inspired to write *Corrin*, a basic kidnapping

story set in the future, after reading Stephen King's novel, *Firestar*. Herod rewrote *Firestar* into a screenplay and then wrote to King inquiring



Bob Herod

if he could produce it on an amateur college level. Even though the novel's rights had been sold, King called Herod to see if he'd be interested in being a production assistant

on *The Creepshow*. Unfortunately, all the production spots had been filled, upon which he decided, "Why should I waste my time re-writing other people's material when I could be writing my own?"

Therefore, he began working on *Corrin*. After writing several drafts of the screenplay he saw a poster on an Avila bulletin board about the FOCUS Awards. "I thought I'd enter the contest just to see how *Corrin* would do," Herod commented. So, he rewrote it one last time and won the screenplay competition with the final copy. Bob sent the manuscript to Stephen King to investigate its possibilities, but has received no response as yet.

## New year brings changes in staff across campus

by Denise Kaufman

As the first semester begins and the students get back into the swing of things, they will begin to notice several new Avila staff members around campus. Quite a few changes have occurred in the Admissions office with the addition of a new high school admissions counselor, Dee Dee Bruns, as well as an admissions secretary, Barbara Agesen and word processor, Beth Vaughn.

Three para-professionals, Susan Seiter, Marsha Hustad, and Denise Kaufman have also been hired for the coming academic year.

Three new staff members will help round out the Athletic Department. A graduate student from Wisconsin, Orlin Stener, will act as Intramural Coordinator and Assistant Intercollegiate Soccer Coach. Henry Newell

will coach women's basketball with Cindy Northcraft acting as assistant coach.

Other staff additions include Sr. Patricia Gillespie as Coordinator of Campus Ministry, Dr. Kenneth Beal as Director of Computers, Shirley Wileman as Residential Coordinator/Counselor and Avila graduate Darrell Kautz as a business office employee.

## Business Dept. receives majority of new faculty

by Denise Kaufman

Avila students will see some new faces in the classroom this fall. Several full-time faculty members have been hired to become part of the Avila family.

A majority of the changes

have occurred in the Business and Economics Department with the addition of five full-time faculty members. The returning Business and Economics' faculty welcomes Dr. Robert Gay, the newly appointed departmental

chairperson. The department also introduces Dr. Steve Bell in Economics, Gene Martin in the Legal Assistant Program, Sr. Adele Marie Rothan in Computer Science and Dr. John Mitchell in General Business.

### *The Staff*

Managing Editor ..... Mark Johnson  
News Editor ..... Jennifer Hawthorne  
Features Editor ..... Mary Scalisi  
Reporters ..... Denise Kaufman, Sheri Scalisi, Denise Tully, Lynn Lehman, Joe Burnor, Karen Wilson  
Photographers ..... Kathy Hall and Emrol Edwards  
Advertising Manager ..... Jennifer McKenna  
Advisor ..... Deborah Volkmer

The Avila Examiner is published bi-monthly during the regular college year with exception of college vacation periods by Avila College for the general student body, faculty, administration, and staff.

Opinions expressed in the Avila Examiner do not necessarily represent the official position of Avila College.

The Avila Examiner reserves the right to edit and print all letters, stories, articles, cartoons, games, poems, jokes, and artwork received. All copy received becomes the property of the Avila Examiner.

For more information, please contact:

Deb Volkmer, Assistant Director of the Office of Student Life, Marian Centre, Avila College, 11901 Wornall Road, Kansas City, Missouri 64145.

Letters to the Editors are always welcome.



## Residential Coordinator named

by Denise Kaufman

Those who walk through the Marian Centre will notice a new face in the candy store window. The gingerbread style office which was formerly the old candy store now belongs to the new residential coordinator, Shirley Wileman.

The brunette was born and raised in the Minneapolis area and obtained a B.S. in Psychology at Evangel College. Her graduate studies were completed at the nearby Pittsburgh State in Pittsburgh, Kansas. Miss Wileman has an interesting employment history working in shelters with delinquent teenaged boys and with abused and neglected teenaged girls.

She prefers working with college-aged students though and will have the opportunity while in her new position.



**Shirley Wileman**

The residential coordinator lives in an apartment in Carondelet Hall and her duties revolve around training the new residence hall assistants and hiring desk staff and night supervisors.

She is also in charge of assigning residence hall rooms, compiling a residence hall newsletter and acting as a counselor in the Human Resource Center. Her goals are to shed some positive new insights into residence hall living and possibly some revamping of many old residence hall ideas into new traditions.

The new residential coordinator enjoys water skiing, horseback riding and racquet ball. Needlepoint and travel also fill her spare time.

So, the next time you happen to be by the old candy store, drop in and say hello to Shirley Wileman, she'd love to meet you.

## Human Resource Center growth offers numerous benefits to students

by Denise Kaufman

Over the past few months, several changes have occurred in the Human Resource Center. The center, which is located in lower Blasco, has expanded by adding new faculty members and programs as well as supplementary office space.

This facility is an aid to the students in helping them develop physically, emotionally and academically as a total person during the college years. The Resource Center is a multi-faceted complex which offers free personal counseling, career planning and placement, college skills, student health services, special groups and workshops and foreign student advisement.

Both full- and part-time staff members are on hand to conduct confidential personal counseling sessions. Such topics as college adjustment, depression, value development, and family problems are just a few of the issues which are discussed.

Carole Hamilton, Director of Human Resource Center, feels that the counseling must be pro-active and growth-oriented. The counselors do not solve the problems but they help students sort out their thinking and face reality.

It must be noted that these sessions are not for the mentally ill but for any individual who feels the need to touch bases with an outside party. Referrals are made though to a consulting psychiatrist if the situation demands. At no time is the information discussed in the sessions released to outsiders, for all counseling is confidential.

Last fall Mary Jean Costello was added to the staff as Coordinator of Career Development and Placement. Mary Jean provides academic advisement for undecided majors as well as assisting in career counseling, ACT and interest testing.

She will also be teaching a career development course for those unsure about career options. Trish McDonald, the Human Resource Center secretary keeps a constant check on the jobs listing board updating any on/off campus, full, part-time, seasonal and permanent employment opportunities available. Students are encouraged to periodically check the board for any positions which may arise.

Any student who feels the

need to sharpen basic study skills would want to investigate the College Skills Center. For a \$10.00 fee an individual can take this noncredit course which puts focus on basic classroom test and note taking skills.

Provisional students or those who do not meet the Admissions Committee criterion are required to take this course although all students are free to participate. A credit course is taken in conjunction with college skills in order for the students to put the practical skills which are being learned to full use.

The new Coordinator of College Skills and twelve-year veteran of the English Department is Kathleen Neff. Martin Jolly and Shirley Wileman will assist the coordinator with her duties.

The Student Health Center is located in the tunnel below the Marian Centre. Carol Frevert is a registered nurse who is on hand to treat minor injuries and dispense non-prescription medication to students. If needed, the nurse will make referrals to an off-campus physician.

## Discovering the many campus organizations

by Karen Wilson

With the first days of college behind them, this year's freshmen are settling in at Avila.

The initial discovery that Avila and "Animal House" are not one and the same has been made. The sight of nuns traversing the campus and a lack of John Belushi look-alikes tends to shatter that image.

However, even with this knowledge tucked in their belts, freshmen have more confusing moments in store for them.

One arises when the new students decide to look beyond their books and show an interest in campus life.

SGA, SUB, SAFB, RHG..., which may look to freshmen like alphabet soup, is actually a list of some campus organizations.

The meaning of these mysterious initials can be found in the Student Life Handbook.

One organization that freshmen may not know they belong to is SGA, the Student Government Association. All students enrolled for credit at Avila belong to SGA. Its role includes acting as a communication link between students, faculty, staff and administration. For students interested in joining an organization, more information is available from the Office

of Student Life, located in Marion Centre.

Avila's intercollegiate athletic program sponsors soccer, volleyball, basketball and tennis. And, for sports enthusiasts who like to do more than watch, there are intramurals to take part in.

SUB, which stands for the Student Union Board, sponsors a number of programs each year that are free to Avila students. These programs include dances, skating parties, films, and speakers.

Avila also offers a number of services that new students should learn about and utilize.

The College's Health Service, located in the tunnel below Blasco Hall, is equipped to handle emergency situations and minor illnesses. The office is staffed by a professional nurse and students should not feel reluctant to seek assistance.

Also, the Business Office provides a convenient check cashing service for students that freshmen may not be aware of. The office cashes checks of up to \$10.00 during posted hours.

Many other services and activities are available at Avila. Freshmen should take time to investigate and learn exactly what Avila has to offer them. In other words — search, use and enjoy.

**DISCOUNT tickets  
available in the**

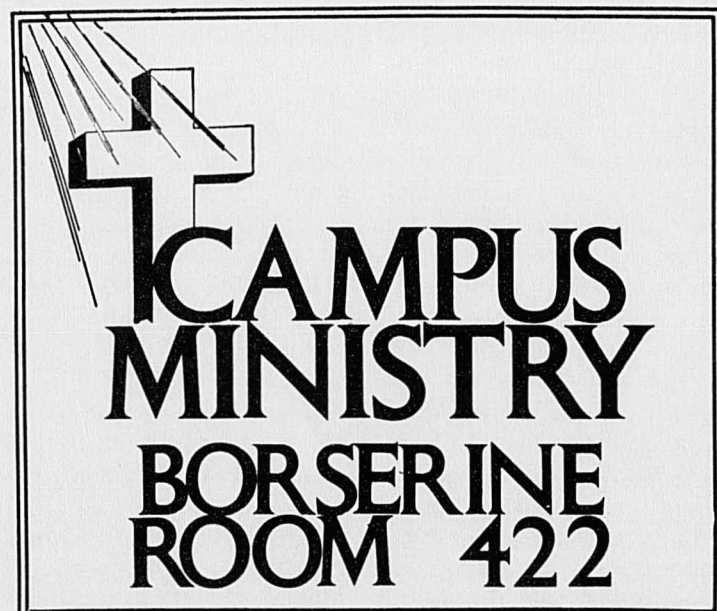


**Student Life  
Office**

**Marian Centre  
942-8400, ext. 260**

### HELP WANTED

Night Supervisors needed to work in Residence Hall. Duties include hall lock-up, enforcing Residence Hall policies, light house-keeping. Hours are 12 a.m. to 3 or 4 a.m. depending on the evening. To apply, pick up application in the Student Life Office.



If you live off-campus and commute to Avila check into the Commuter Board Plan: nourishing delicious meals; convenient to class schedules; save money in the long run; and, save the hassle of preparing your own meal.

Choose between a five- or ten-meal per week plan prepared by Gladieux Food Service and served in the Marian Centre Dining Room.

For further information contact Mary Jo in the Office of Student Life, 942-8400, ext. 260.



## Athletics announces changes

The athletic department has made staff changes that find new faces in old positions and old faces in new positions.

John Lenhart, last year's Equipment Manager will take over the duties of Field-house Supervisor. Lenhart is an Avila alumnus, having attended along with his wife Brenda from 1972-1976. He was one of the students at the time responsible for starting the Avalanche basketball program.

Henry Newell comes to Avila from Raytown South High School as the new Women's Basketball coach. Assisting Newell will be Cindy Northcraft another Avila alumnus.

Orlin Stener joins the staff as Assistant Soccer coach and Intramural Coordinator.



Last year's soccer and volleyball teams made the playoffs. Both squads will be looking to repeat the feat with the aid of new recruits.



## Intramurals set pace for year

by Mark Johnson

A year round schedule of Intramural activities has given Avila its own version of the Wide World of Sports.

Opening the festivities will be the tennis tournament scheduled for September 17-19. The tournament will pit members of their own sexes against each other in a double elimination format. September 15 is the sign-up deadline.

For those desiring a smaller format of the game, there will be a ping-pong tournament held September 27-October 1.

In case racquets aren't your sport, coed volleyball starts October 18. Six players to a side will use their varying skill levels as they go in search of the league championship. The league will run through November 19 with the final sign-up in late September.

An aerobics class for those looking to get in shape will run from October 4, to December 3. The class will use dance routines designed to get the body into top shape.

The winter festivities feature a ski trip, swimming, basketball, and another aerobics class.

The leaves haven't begun to turn yet but the plans for the ski trip are underway. Avila students will head to the Colorado slopes during the Winter recess.

Friday night swimming at the YMCA indoor pool at 11310 Holmes offers a chance to get away from the routine of books and studying. The doors will open January 21 and close March 25. It is free to Avila students and their families.

Is there an undiscovered Moses Malone on campus? If so or if you just dream of being the next Malone, you'll get your chance at stardom when basketball begins January 24 and runs through February 25. Play will feature 3 on 3 teams in men and women's divisions using half-courts. Sign-ups for the league will be in December.

Wrapping things up in the Spring will be the road rally softball tournament, and canoe trip.

One's knowledge of the Kansas City area will be put to the test in the 6th annual road rally on March 24. Some of the less knowledgeable last year found themselves telling jokes to cows.

In what appears to be Avila's answer to the "October Series," the softball tournament will be the "April Series." Running April 8-10 it has produced memorable plays and fun in past years.

## Avalanche soccer, volleyball aim towards the playoffs

by Mark Johnson

The Avalanche soccer and volleyball teams will be seeking their second straight year in the District 16 playoffs this season. To reach the playoffs, they first will have to defeat area teams like Rockhurst, Park, and UMKC.

### SOCCER

All-American forward Joe Schrick will lead the Avalanche in his final season as they

set their sights on the District 16 title and the national playoffs. Holding down the back line will be Craig Kasten.

Joining Schrick on the front line will be All-District forward Neil Madigan, the team's second leading scorer as a freshman last year.

Returning mid-fielders include Joe Eppy, Mike Auck, Scott Huber, Larry Larson, and Neil Kelly.

Returning in the backfield will be All-District Tom Zahner in his final season. Tom Hampel inherits the goalie position from the departed Anthony Christian.

Newcomers battling for starter roles include Craig Westbrook, Matt Tierney, Philip Bryde, and Tom Unger.

### VOLLEYBALL

Can a new front line be built in a season? If it can, the Lady Avalanche should find themselves in the playoffs once again.

They will be looking to fill front line positions left open by graduations. Fighting for the spots will be Kathy Werth, Jan Harrington, Tammy Osterkamp and newcomers Julie Gronski and Lynn Lehman.

The team's experience comes at the utility and setter positions. Returning in these roles will be Kathy Hale, Tama Sadler, Tina Crimi, Debbie Divers, and Lori Slyter. Newcomer Bridget McVey will also work as a setter.

Their first action at home will come in a tournament the weekend of September 10-11. Schools scheduled to play include Park, Rockhurst, Harris Stowe, and William Woods.

## Tennis tourney holds court

Following in the footsteps of the United States Tennis Open will be the Avila Intramural tennis tournament. Slated to run from September 17-19 it should feature a number of new faces since Connors, Lendel, McEnroe, Austin, and Jaegar won't be able to attend this year.

It will be a double elimination tournament with each player guaranteed at least two matches. All matches will be played against the same sex, including the finals.

All Avila students, faculty, and staff are welcome to play. Only those who have

played collegiate level varsity tennis in the past two years are ineligible to play.

Each court will be allotted a 15 minute warm-up period. If an opposing player does not arrive within 20 minutes after the other player has taken the court, the player present wins the match by forfeit. Scoring in the preliminary matches will be no-ad and revert to ad scoring in the championship matches.

Players will be responsible for calling their own lines and keeping their scores. The winner of each match will be responsible for reporting the score to the main

table immediately following the match conclusion.

There will be awards for men and women in 1st and 2nd place.

Matches on September 17 will run from 3-7 p.m. On the 18th they will run from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. On the 19th, matches will run from noon to 3 p.m.

All players must provide their own racquet and a new can of tennis balls. For more details, contact Intramural Coordinator Orlin Stener in the Student Activities Conference Room located in Marian Centre. Sign-ups are in the Student Life Office, also in Marian Centre. Sign up deadline is September 15.

### From the Bench

## Dark clouds in the land of Camelot

by Mark Johnson

The mighty walls of Camelot are crumbling. A crack here and a pebble there. Slowly but surely the walls are coming down. Their erosion was noticed by few until this summer when a large chunk broke loose from the lofty heights.

San Francisco University's decision to drop their basketball program rocked the world of college athletics like nothing had for years.

The problems they encountered were a familiar group that has been eroding college athletics for decades with their effect most felt in the last ten years. Coaches who will win at any cost and alumni who will help them do it are just two of them.

Schools that create non-attendance courses and faculty members who run them are two others. These

are just four of many problems that have become commonplace within the kingdom. The routine was for the ruler to slap the hand, the school president to express his outrage, sometimes at the ruling body, sometimes at his school program and then promise to make amends.

Those at the major university were well-versed in this routine and played their roles accordingly, that is until now. The NCAA read their lines with righteous indignation and then cued the school. This was the second opening though for San Francisco and they went to the ad-lib. With their ad-lib, they brought the curtain down.

The school had tried once to clean up their athletic program. They failed. Instead of trying again, they choose a

noble deed that would have made Arthur proud. High-ranking members within the school realised what the problems were doing to their school. More important, they realised the little value of the athletic program when set next to the academic side of things. Athletics paled in comparison.

So they called it quits. A nationally ranked basketball team was no more. The decision stunned their own athletic department. It stunned college athletics period. The walls they had relied on were crumbling down as was their kingdom that captivated millions.

It had been happening for years, with silent consent. The forces eroding the walls were coming from within. For it was the present the rulers were worried about. The future was not within

their sight. That is until now.

For San Francisco University was cast in the role of Merlin. They looked into the future. In it, they saw a kingdom with walls possessing gates open in welcome for all who cared to enter. Academics and athletics shared a harmonious relationship. Students came to learn, then they played. In the process, they learned about themselves and those around them. To reach this state though, the walls would have to come down.

What will become of Merlin's vision? What will become of Camelot? For now, the walls will continue to crumble. The rulers and ruled are not likely to change. Who will be around when the walls have all come down? One can only hope they will have the vision of Merlin.